



Arkansas Economic Update

September 20, 2016

Summary

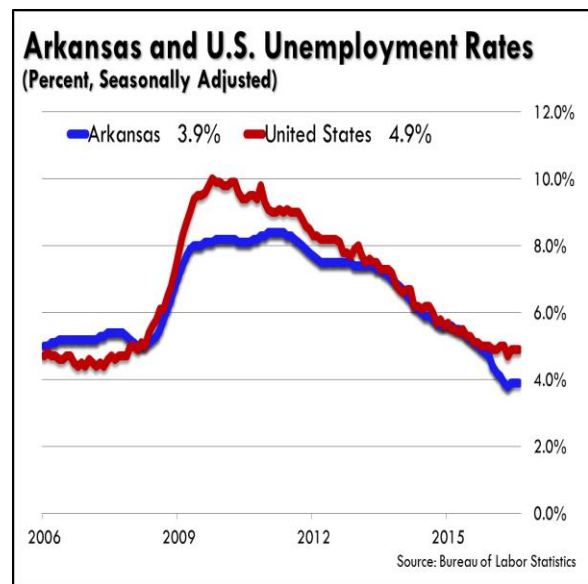
Nonfarm payroll employment in Arkansas increased by 3,400 jobs, and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.9 percent in August according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Arkansas Unemployment Rate

During August, the unemployment rate in Arkansas was unchanged at 3.9 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed rose by 267 in August to 53,170, while the labor force fell by 1,520 to 1,355,931. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 9 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Arkansas. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Arkansas stood at 5.1 percent.

The 10-year peak for the unemployment rate in Arkansas was 8.4 percent in May 2011. The series high for the unemployment rate in Arkansas occurred in February 1983 when the unemployment rate reached 10.3 percent. The 10-year low for the unemployment rate was 3.8 percent in May 2016. This also represents the series low for the unemployment rate in Arkansas. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.9 percent in August. August's unemployment rate was 0.2 percentage point lower than a year earlier. The 10-year high for the national unemployment rate was 10.0 percent in October 2009. The 10-year low was 4.4 percent in May 2007.



Arkansas Payroll Employment

Arkansas nonfarm payrolls increased by 3,400 jobs, or 0.28 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during August. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls declined by 2,100. Over the past 12 months, nonfarm payrolls in Arkansas increased by 16,700, or 1.38 percent. Arkansas nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

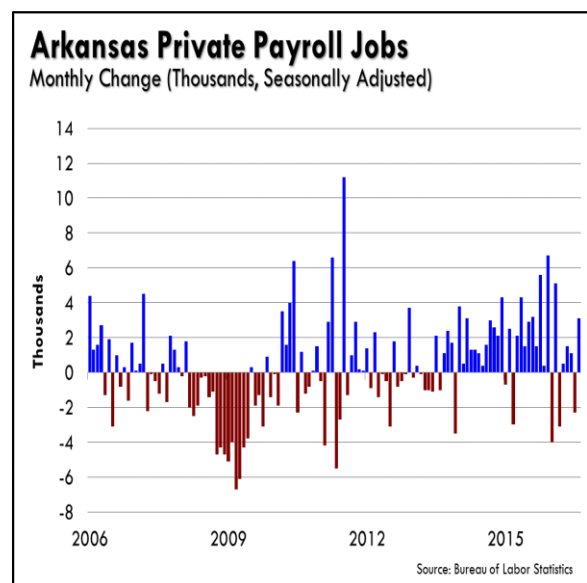
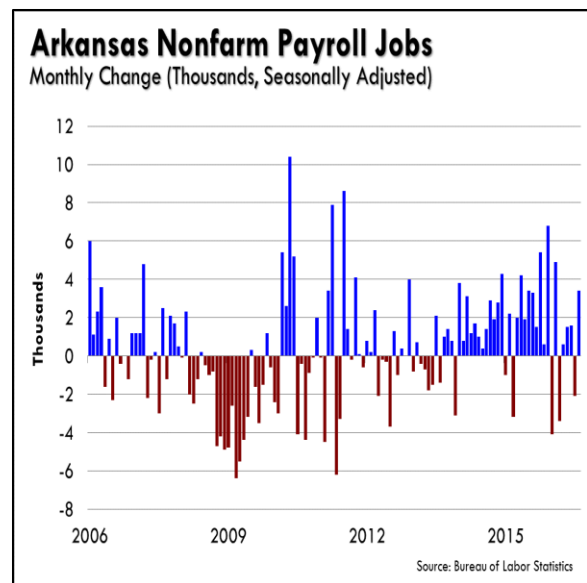
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 151,000 jobs in August, or 0.1 percent. Over the 12-month period ending August 2016, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,447,000 jobs, or 1.72 percent. Arkansas ranks 28th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During August, Arkansas private-sector payrolls increased by 3,100, or 0.31 percent. Private-sector payrolls declined by 2,300 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private-sector payrolls in Arkansas increased by 16,100, or 1.61 percent. Arkansas private-sector payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

Nationally private-sector payroll jobs increased by 126,000 jobs in August, or 0.1 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,283,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 1.9 percent. Arkansas ranks 25th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During August, total government payroll employment in Arkansas increased by 300, or 0.14 percent. Federal government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.49 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.13 percent, while local government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.09 percent.

Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 600, or 0.28 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 600, or 0.77 percent. Local government payroll employment declined by 400, or 0.35 percent.



The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during August were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+2,600) and Leisure & Hospitality (+1,600). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Construction (-900) and Other Services (-500).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Educational & Health Services (+6,500) and Professional & Business Services (+5,200). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Manufacturing (-1,700) and Mining & Logging (-1,400).

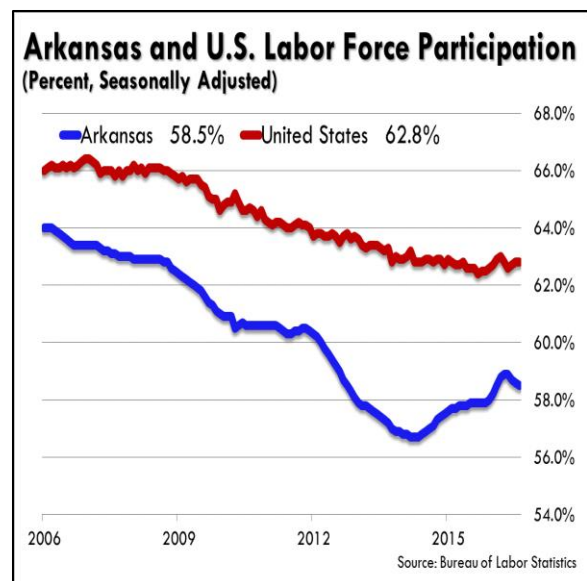
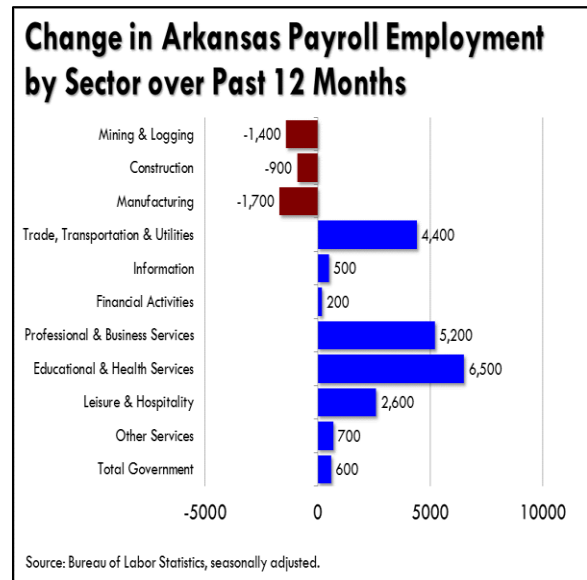
Other Arkansas Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Arkansas declined to 58.5 percent in August from 58.6 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 44 have a higher labor force participation rate than Arkansas. The labor force participation rate in Arkansas is 0.6 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Arkansas was 63.4 percent in March 2007. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Arkansas occurred in January 1995 when the labor force participation rate hit 65.1 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 56.7 percent in May 2014. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in Arkansas.

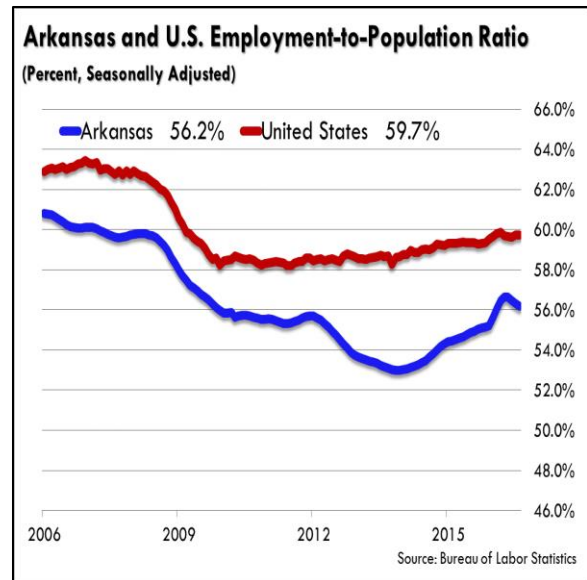
The national labor force participation rate was unchanged at 62.8 percent, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Arkansas civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, declined to 56.2 percent in August from 56.3 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 42 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Arkansas. The



employment-to-population ratio in Arkansas is 1.2 percentage points higher than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Arkansas was 60.1 percent in February 2007. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Arkansas occurred in January 1995 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 62.0 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 53.0 percent in January 2014. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in March 2014 when the employment-to-population ratio was 53.0 percent.



The national employment-to-population ratio held steady at 59.7 percent in August. That rate was 0.3 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

State employment and unemployment data for September is scheduled for release on October 21, 2016. The national employment situation report for September will be released on Friday, October 7, 2016.